

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2014

Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1101 A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Jewell, Administrator McCarthy, Assistant Secretary Darcy:


On behalf of the Everglades Caucus, we request that the Department of Interior, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency work with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the relevant state and federal agencies to develop a specific process to address the water quality problems of the L-28 canal system.

Late last year, the Everglades Caucus held a briefing on water quality issues affecting the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Based on this briefing, it is clear that greater efforts must be made to address the water quality of the L-28 canal system. Recognizing this need, Congress recently included a provision in the Explanatory Statement of the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act urging the Department of Interior to work with the Miccosukee Tribe to examine the water quality of the L-28 canal system. In particular, the L-28 Interceptor canal ends on the Miccosukee Federal Reservation as a free flowing discharge carrying waters with high levels of phosphorous. The high levels of phosphorous have a devastating impact on the land and waters of the Miccosukee Federal Reservation, the Miccosukee people's way of life and culture, and ultimately the water quality of the entire Everglades ecosystem downstream.


In moving forward to address this issue, we believe it is important the full range of options for improving the water quality of the L-28 canal system be considered as part of this process. The L-28 canal system affects many different entities, and as such, any solution to water quality and distribution challenges facing the system requires a coordinated response from the tribal, state, and federal governments. In addition, because the L-28 canal system directly impacts the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, we believe it's important that the Tribe's policies and culture should be respected in any effective plan to solve these water quality issues.

As you move forward with Everglades restoration efforts, we encourage you to make addressing the L-28 canal system issues an important priority.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



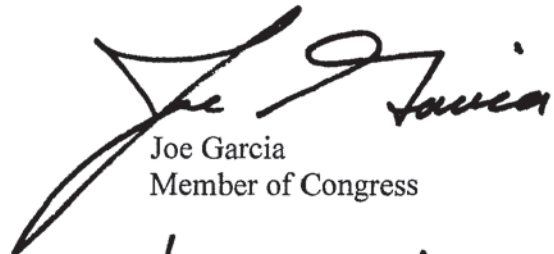
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson
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